

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are pending in the present case. Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are independent claims. By this amendment, claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are amended and claims 6, 7 and 13-18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Bearing in the mind the comments in the Final Office Action regarding the allowability of claims 7, 14, 16 and 18, please note that the present application is amended so as to place it into condition for allowance. An early indication of the same it greatly appreciated.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment After Final in that the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. For example, the amendment to independent claim 4, 5, 11 and 12 merely incorporates subject matter from allowable claims 7, 16, 14 and 18, respectively, which has been canceled, and thus does not raise a new issue that would require further consideration and/or search.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 6 of the final Office Action that claims 7, 14, 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully point out that independent claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 7, 16, 14 and 18, respectively.

Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

The Rejections are Moot

The Office Action rejects:

Claims 4-6, 11-13, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,112,070 to Katsuyama et al. (hereafter Katsuyama) in view of Humphries et al. (Industrial electronics, Breton Publishers, 1983, chapter 2, page 38) (hereafter Humphries) and further in view of applicants' admitted prior art.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are amended to include allowable subject matter. As such, the rejections pertaining thereto are moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6, 11-13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T.

Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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